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ON PAGE 1

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DRUG TESTS BY C.I.A. HELD MORE EXTENSIVE THAN REPORTED IN '75

Agency Says Alcoholics, Addicts and Terminally Ill May Have Been Unwitting Subjects in '50's

By ANTHONY MARRO
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 15—The Central Intelligence Agency said today that it had found additional information that an unknown number of Americans, including alcoholics, drug addicts and terminal cancer patients, apparently were unwitting subjects of drug experiment programs conducted by the agency in the 1950's and 1960's.

Spokesmen for the C.I.A. and for the White House said that it was not clear how many persons were tested or whether

Text of C.I.A. letter is on page 26.

any harm had resulted, but the new records indicated that the agency's drug experiments went beyond the extensive testing of such drugs as LSD that had previously been disclosed.

The programs, which the agency said were begun about 25 years ago and discontinued at least 10 years ago, involved research on surreptitious methods of administering drugs and on the development of a knockout, or "K," drug that was tested on cancer patients.

Adm. Stansfield Turner, the Director of Central Intelligence, said in a letter to the Senate Intelligence Committee that the information had just been uncovered and that he was confident there had been "no previous attempt to conceal this material." The contents of the letter, which Admiral Turner had hand-carried to the committee, were subsequently released by the committee and the White House.

C.I.A. Records Destroyed

In 1975, when the Senate was investigating abuses by the intelligence agencies, an inquiry into a number of drug experiment programs was stifled somewhat by the fact that many of the C.I.A. records had been destroyed.

Spokesmen for the C.I.A. and the White House said today that it was not yet clear just how many persons might have been subjects of the experiments, or whether any injuries or deaths might

The chairman of the Intelligence Committee, Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Democrat of Hawaii, said that a hearing on the programs would be held at the earliest possible date. Spencer Davis, a spokesman for the committee, later said that "the earliest possible date probably will be sometime late next week."

The new material apparently came to light when a C.I.A. officer, in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act about the drug-testing programs, found previously undisclosed evidence of the testing in financial records.

In his letter to the committee, Admiral Turner said that "because the new material now on hand is primarily of a financial nature, it does not present a complete picture of the field of drug experimentation activity, but it does provide more detail than was previously available to us."

From these records, he said, it appears clear that there may have been additional cases of American citizens being unwitting subjects of Government drug testing, over and above those cases disclosed in the Senate investigation two years ago.

In addition, he said in the letter, the records indicate that some of the persons chosen for the experimentation were drug addicts or alcoholics, that tests of knockout drugs were used as part of programs testing pain killers for cancer patients, and that there may have been "an improper payment to a private institution."

It could not be learned today which private institution received the payment, or precisely what sort of an institution it was.

The new material, according to the letter given the committee, apparently relates to the so-called "MK-ULTRA" testing program, some aspects of which were detailed in the report of the Senate Intelligence Committee issued in April 1976.

Principal Drug-Testing Program

The Senate investigators discovered in 1975 that many of the records concerning this program, which was the principal C.I.A. program involving research and development of chemical and biological agents, were destroyed in January 1973.

From remaining records and from interviews, however, the Senate committee learned that the program had begun sometime around 1953, and that its purpose was to determine what forms of "behavior control" could be expected under various drugs.

One of the victims of the experiments was Dr. Frank R. Olson, who committed suicide in 1953 by jumping out of a 10th-story window of the Statler Hotel in New York after unwittingly drinking about 70 micrograms of LSD.

Dr. Olson's survivors, who never learned the true circumstances of his death until it was disclosed in a Government report on intelligence activities in

1975, received \$750,000 last year in compensation from the Government.

Most of the subjects of the various military and C.I.A. drug-testing programs, according to the Senate investigation, appeared to have been volunteers who knew about the programs and either military or Government employees. Others, however, were clearly unwitting subjects.

Jody Powell, the White House press secretary, said today that the new material indicated that the tests involved persons who were both unwitting subjects and private citizens.

At the time of the initial Senate investigation, C.I.A. officials said that the testing had been a cold war phenomenon that was spurred on by stories of "brainwashing" of United States soldiers by Communists.

In this period, they said, a great deal of experimentation was conducted, principally under the MK-ULTRA program, in attempts to find drugs that would alter behavior in various ways, especially those that could be useful in the interrogation of foreign agents.

Some of the studies, particularly those concerning hallucinogenic drugs, were conducted at the National Institute of Mental Health Research Center in Lexington, Ky., which was a prison used to house drug addicts.

A C.I.A. spokesman said that the agency wanted to make public its new information even before it knew the scope or seriousness of the testing because it "wanted to try to get out ahead on something for a change, instead of responding to leaks."

Among the former C.I.A. officials who the Senate report said had been involved in the drug-testing programs was Richard Helms, then an assistant deputy director, and later Director of Central Intelligence.

In a briefing today, however, Mr. Powell urged reporters not to draw conclusions that agency officials knowledgeable about other activities necessarily knew about, or were involved in, the incidents now being examined.

"I would beg that you be careful about implications with regard to individuals in this matter," The White House press secretary said, adding that neither the White House nor the C.I.A. yet knew for sure who was involved in planning the drug-testing activities.

In response to a specific question from reporters, Mr. Powell said that the recent resignation of E. Henry Knoche as deputy director of the C.I.A. was "entirely unconnected with this situation."